



# PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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**Councilman Michael Leszcz, Co-Chairman**  
**Christopher Perry, Vice Chairman**

*We, the Patuxent River Commission, envision a Patuxent River ecosystem as vital and productive in 2050 as it was in the 1950s. We therefore commit to be stewards and advocates for the Patuxent River and to lead and inspire actions to protect, enhance, and restore living resources and the natural, cultural, economic, and recreational values of the Patuxent River and its watershed.*

☀ Please call Daniel Rosen at MDP 410-767-4577 if you have any questions or comments.

## MEETING SUMMARY

**January 13, 2021**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Annapolis, MD**

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Members:** Michael Leszcz, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Jim Caldwell, Martin Chandler, Guy Curley, Steven Darcey, John Denniston, Andrew Der, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Kim Finch, Brandy Glenn, Jennifer Greiner, Bill Hubbard, Scott Knoche, Erik Michelsen, Tom Miller, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Alison Santoro, Steven Shofar, Joanna Smith, Barbara Sollner-Webb, John Swartz, Mark Symborski, Al Tucker, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk

**Attendees:** Steve Allen, Chris Bar, Hannah Bruchack, Shelly Cross, Paul Cucuzzella, Patrick DeArmye, Caroline Donovan, Cathy Fleshman, Jim Holman, Matt Ogburn, Sue Priftis

**Staff:** Dan Rosen, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow

### **Introductions and Approval of September Minutes**

The November 18, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

### **Update Maglev Workgroup**

Via email vote in January, the Commission approved correspondence to be sent to the Federal Railroad Administration requesting the review period of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the MAGLEV project be extended to 180 days. The letter was sent on January 7, 2021 and copies were sent to: Maryland State Senators Douglas Peters, Paul Pinsky, and Jim Rosapepe; Maryland State Delegates Benjamin Barnes, Anne Healey, Marvin Holmes, Jr., Julian Ivey, Mary Lehman, Joseline Peña-Meinyk, Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Alonzo Washington, Ronald Watson, and Nicole Williams; U.S. Representatives Anthony Brown and Steny Hoyer; U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen.

**Update: 2019-2020 Report in Implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan**

Draft report was provided to the Commission. Comments to be submitted by January 15, 2021.

**Update: Development Impacts at Anne Arundel County and Howard County Sites**

Erik Michelsen noted Anne Arundel County staff (enforcement, planning & zoning, public works) have developed a task force and are working on a long-term plan to address the flooding issues. The issue is a priority for the County administration, and he will continue to provide the Commission with updates.

Chairman Leszcz provided an update on the Racetrack stormwater project and issues with rip rap installation.

**Status and trends, and management approaches for the blue catfish population with the Patuxent River and its tributaries**

Matt Ogburn, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center presented on the blue catfish, a native to the Mississippi drainage basin. The blue catfish was introduced to Virginia in the 1970's and 1980's and very quickly spread throughout the Chesapeake Bay and within the Patuxent.

The findings of the invasive catfish workgroup suggest that management is most effective at the tributary scale, since it appears they do not move between tributaries. Work is ongoing in the Patuxent on where they congregate. Movement through the river depends on the salinity.

**Report Card for Patuxent River**

Caroline Donovan, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science noted the 2020 Chesapeake Bay Report Card was the first to include non-tidal data. The indicators used in the report card process are: 1) aquatic; 2) societal and 3) terrestrial.

There is potential to develop a Patuxent specific report card and would involve five key steps:

- Conceptualize the plan
- Choose the indicators
- Determine thresholds
- Calculate grades (rating system)
- Communicate the results

**Draft 2021 Annual Action Plan for the Patuxent River Commission**

A new approach for the annual action plan was proposed and distributed to the Commission. The plan contains five overarching topics. Comments on the draft plan are due to Jason Dubow prior to the February Commission meeting.